



January 2021

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. . . . What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

John's gospel begins not with the birth of a baby in Bethlehem, but with the birthing of all creation. As John understands it, the Word first spoken at creation's dawning became flesh and blood in the babe born in Bethlehem. Just as at creation's start, the Word spoken there was the dawning of light, the advent of life, the overflowing of love.

In this speaking of the Word, God's innermost self is revealed as the light that overcomes darkness, as vulnerable, compassionate love that knows no bounds, as the power of life that conquers even death.

And there is more: God's Word, incarnate in the teachings, life, death and resurrection of Jesus not only reveals the deepest truth about who God is but also the deepest truth of who we are. It tells us that we are God's own beloved children. This is the word of light spoken into the darkness of our lives to illumine the way, the word of life spoken into a world of death that gives hope, the word of love that bestows upon the beloved a new identity.

Our words, too, can bring light and life and love. And when they do, it is the Word—God's own creative, light-bringing, life-giving, love—that becomes enfleshed, embodied in us.

Peace,
Pr. Richard

Meetings in January

Meetings are held via Zoom. Please visit our website at mtcarmelslo.org for links to the meetings. Visitors welcome!

Executive Team

Tuesday, Jan 12 at 6pm

Church Council

Thursday, Jan 21 at 6pm

RSVP for in-person worship:

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

Or call the church office

Upcoming Holidays:

Friday, Jan 1
Monday, Jan 18
Monday, Feb 15

Sunday Worship at Mt. Carmel Sunday Worship Service

9:30am—Online via Zoom

12:00 noon—In-person outside
(please RSVP for in-person services)

See page 2 for links to our online worship services. All are welcome!

WORSHIP ONLINE

Join us on ZOOM for
worship and bible studies

Please use the links listed here to join any of our worship services. We look forward to seeing you!

[How to join a ZOOM meeting - Instructions](#)

- [Link to SUNDAY morning Zoom worship](#)

Sundays at 9:30 AM

For telephone: +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 849 4786 1947

Passcode: 591300

- [Link to WEDNESDAY Evening Zoom Service](#)

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

For telephone: +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 867 5095 6162

Passcode: 695333

- [Mt. Carmel YouTube channel](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR SUNDAY MORNING ONLINE WORSHIP

To enhance our time together and our online worship experience, we will include an extended time before and after worship for conversation with microphones unmuted. During worship microphones should be muted except for the Sharing the Peace and Lord's Prayer.

9:00-9:25: Fellowship Time (unmuted)

9:25: Announcements (microphones muted)

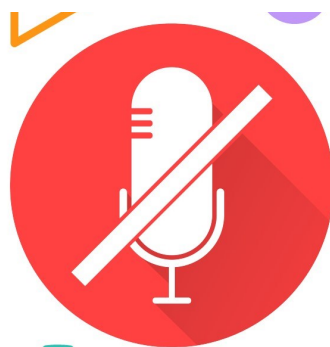
9:30: Worship

10:30 Post Service Fellowship (unmuted)

10:45: Adult Forum

Please remain muted
during the worship service
so that everyone may
enjoy the experience.

Thank you!



Readings and Psalm

January 3 (Second Sunday of Christmas)

Lector: Jenice Twomey

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-12

Wisdom lives among God's people

Psalm 147:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

The will of God made known in Christ

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

God with us: the incarnation of the Word

January 10

Lector: Patti Frey

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

God creates light

Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

January 17

Lector: John Cook

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

The calling of Samuel

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in your body

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

The calling of the first disciples

January 24

Lector: Monica Holman

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Repentance at Nineveh

Psalm 62:5-12

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Living in the end times

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

The calling of the disciples at the sea

January 31

Lector: Carlyn & Lily Hinds

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The prophet speaks with God's authority

Psalm 111

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:31-28

The healing of one with an unclean spirit



Pastor Richard Rollefson leads this quiet service each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm on Zoom. Click the link below to join the meeting, or join by phone and enter the meeting ID and passcode.

[Link for Wednesday Evening Service](#)

For telephone: +1 669 900 9128
Meeting ID: 867 5095 6162
Passcode: 695333

[Link for Order of Worship](#)

*Join us on January 6 for an Epiphany service.

Bible Study

Fridays at 10:00 AM

[Link to FRIDAY morning Bible study](#)

Telephone: 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 552 129 433

Men's Bible Study

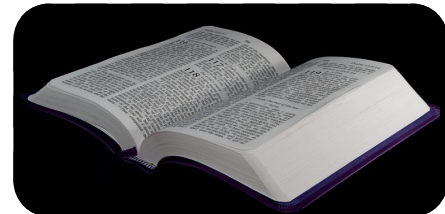
Saturdays at 8:30 AM

[Link to SATURDAY morning Bible study](#)

Telephone: 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 248 770 4658

Passcode: 159759



Special thanks to our musicians and singers each week:

Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen
Sue Haas-Clark / Patti Frey / Richard Rollefson



We share Communion on the first Sunday of each month during our online worship service. We ask that you gather your elements prior to the service—a cup with wine or juice, and a plate with crackers or bread. Pastor Richard will lead us through the Great Thanksgiving as though we are gathered in person. ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE.

In-person Worship

Sundays at
12 noon on the patio



Our in-person worship service is held in the outdoor space beneath the shade canopy in front of the sanctuary. We observe county and state guidelines and best practices to maximize the safety of those attending. Our existing Sunday morning schedule of Zoom worship at 9:30am followed by the Adult Forum at 10:45 will continue.

Please use the RSVP link in the VISTAS or on our website so that we may prepare the outdoor space for socially distanced clusters of same household members. You are asked to bring your own chair (if possible); metal church chairs will also be available. Attendees should be masked when arriving and during the service. Everyone will receive a temperature check and be signed in. Communion will include prepackaged communion bread and cup kits. Entrance and departure routes are marked for your convenience. There will not be a coffee time following worship.

[Click here to RSVP](#)



ADULT FORUM

Sundays following worship

January Schedule

January 3—Paul Sends a Christmas Present—The Letter to Philemon—Bring your Bible and join in a brief study on the Letter to Philemon, Paul's briefest book and his only personal letter still existing.

January 10—MET Team will discuss the responses to the congregational survey last fall and talk about how you can take action on it. An important step in our congregation's moving forward; you will want to be on hand.

January 31—Church Council Update

Topics for other dates in January will be announced in the Vistas.

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who took our survey, it will be very helpful to the Team when they meet on January 14th. Our current Food Bank Challenge has raised over \$18,000 including the challenge match has provided 126,000 meals for those most in need of food. This ministry will continue at least through February 2021.

Our social ministry to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz is also continuing with a monthly collection of food, support items, and Christmas gifts for forty children. This ministry will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

The Conference is also studying how we can help stabilize Santa Cruz's ongoing funding. This is a mission church of the conference, not the Synod. That creates additional issues that need to be addressed by the conference.

The team will be studying the results of the survey and begin developing an action plan for implementation and the factors that must be considered due to the Pandemic.

Your continuing support of these ministries is most appreciated. There finally appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel and that is a very good thing.

Peace and patience,
Marilyn Brown, Team Leader

MET Team Value Voting Survey Starts January 10th

The MET Team has processed all interview responses and will now conduct a Value Voting Survey and ask members to vote on the responses that are most meaningful to them. The survey will be completed online from January 10th through January 24th using a link on the church website or in Vistas. Also, paper surveys will be available upon request to the church office.

An Adult Forum will be held following the worship service on January 10th to present and explain the survey.

Your participation in the survey is important and encouraged. Please mark your calendars with the above dates.

*Thank
You*

From the staff at Mt. Carmel for your gifts at Christmas!

From Dave Becker:

I just opened the envelope and I am speechless! I don't know what to say, other than I so much appreciate the generosity from the congregation and I would like to thank everyone that was a part of this! Such a lovely surprise!

From MaryAnn Jakes:

Thank you so much for the beautiful card and for the very generous gift inside! I am truly overwhelmed

CHILDREN AND TEEN'S MINISTRY

Join Ingrid on YouTube for children's sermons. Click the link or copy to your browser to watch online.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Ny-io7V6ObxbcEmoDazBg>

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Please let us know if you have an anniversary this month.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|    |                   |    |              |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------|
| 05 | Jen DeClark       | 24 | Phil Twomey  |
| 07 | Ed Dresp          | 26 | Carlyn Hinds |
| 08 | Jerry Kirkhart    | 27 | Elsa Brody   |
| 08 | Ken Jakes         | 27 | Ryan Mansell |
| 10 | Sally Eggen       |    |              |
| 13 | Erin Garnsey      |    |              |
| 15 | Nancy Priddy      |    |              |
| 15 | Donley Winger     |    |              |
| 19 | Sheryl Huffaker   |    |              |
| 21 | Ty Bomba          |    |              |
| 23 | Margaret O' Neill |    |              |
| 24 | Jeannie Ledford   |    |              |

Have something you want to celebrate or commemorate?

E-mail the details/pictures to the church office - [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org) - for publication in this newsletter and our weekly "Vistas" announcements!

**Deadline for the February Summit is January 20**

### Prayer Requests

Sid & Beryl Bennett  
 Jeannie Ledford & Family  
 Elsa Brody  
 Maureen Dresp & Family (*Allison; Linda & Fred*)



### PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

**January 3**—Pat Ramsay; Ryan, Martha, Kellani & Andre Reck; Sally Reck

**January 10**—Walt & Helen Rehm; John & Ruth Rollefson; Richard & Cyndi Rollefson

**January 17**—Sandy, Ava & Lucas Rowland; Todd, Rebecca, Jessica, Jason & Matthew Schnack

**January 24**—Karen Schultze; Linda Schultze; Matt, Deanna, Allie, Daniel & Adrian Schultze

**January 31**—Jeanie & Gary Schultz; John & Janis Sexton; Norm & Mollie Smith



## The People's Kitchen

of San Luis Obispo

**Mt. Carmel serves lunch at the Prado Center on the first Friday of each month.**

Volunteers: Thank You, and be sure to check the schedule below for what is needed.

*Please find your own substitutes if you cannot provide this month.*

Email Jan Uder at [j.uder@yahoo.com](mailto:j.uder@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about The People's Kitchen program or would like to volunteer.

### Schedule for January 1:

#### Hot Dish (serves 12+)

Dianne Drazie  
Maureen Dresp  
Annette Martin  
Karen Petersen  
Nancy Priddy  
Carol Winger  
Judy Kirkhart

#### Salad (serves 12+)

Ingrid Frokjer  
Cheryl Garnsey  
J Remington

#### 2 Large Cans of Fruit

Laurie Musiel  
Betty Johnson

#### 3 Gallons Whole Milk

Nancy Cook

**Please have your clearly marked items at church by 11:00am, (heated and ready to go)**



### HUNGER HEROES

Mount Carmel continues to contribute to the SLO Food Bank, and the challenger continues to match every dollar. The need for funding at the Food Bank will not decrease any time soon as this pandemic continues.

There are currently 21 giving units at Mount Carmel funding this challenge. You are all truly HUNGER HEROES!

Thank you for all of your support of this very important ministry. Mount Carmel is truly blessed by your commitment. If you have not yet committed your support, even five dollars will provide thirty-five meals. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a difference to those standing in line to get their next meal from the Food Bank.

Peace and patience,

Marilyn Brown  
Food Bank Coordinator

### Mount Carmel Staff

|                               |                                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <i>Rev. Richard Rollefson</i> | Interim Pastor                           |
| <i>Paul Woodring</i>          | Organist                                 |
| <i>Dave Becker</i>            | Director of Contemporary Music           |
| <i>Tony Bloodworth</i>        | Custodian                                |
| <i>MaryAnn Jakes</i>          | Parish Administrator                     |
| <i>Ingrid Frokjer</i>         | Director of Children and Teen Ministries |
| <i>Deanna Schultze</i>        | Nursery Caregiver                        |

### Mount Carmel Church Council

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| President        | Marshall Pihl    |
| Vice President   | Patti Frey       |
| Secretary        | Carol Harvey     |
| Treasurer        | Sherri Parkinson |
| Members-At-Large |                  |
| Erik Brun        | Jen DeClark      |
| Chuck Kilstrom   | Wayne Lippold    |
| Jan Uder         |                  |

### Church Hours

Our office is not open to visitors at this time, but we are always available by phone. Please call or email to schedule a time to visit in person:

**Phone 805-544-2133**

**Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org) [www.mtcarmelslo.org](http://www.mtcarmelslo.org)**

### Our pastoral staff is here for you

In time of crisis, please contact the church office or Pastor Richard Rollefson 858-349-8862

## Supporting Iglesia Santa Cruz....

**January 9, 2020, 11am-3pm**

We hold a Drive-Thru donation on the second Saturday of each month to benefit the families at Iglesia Santa Cruz. Our primary focus is on food donations, with additional items added to the list upon request by Pr. Esteban and Angie Salazar. All package sizes are acceptable and will be distributed. Maseca is a special corn flour used to make tortillas and is a basic staple in all of the households. Visa gift cards for \$25 are also helpful as storage space is limited.

Special thanks to the Thrivent teams who provide funds to supplement your donations. If you would like to sponsor a Thrivent Action Team, please contact Steve Bennett at sbenn1941@gmail.com, or the church office at 805-544-2133.

As reported in the Vistas, we delivered approximately 1,000 pounds of food in December along with \$300 in gift cards. Additional donations of blankets were sent with the Christmas gifts.

A brief history of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz:

*In 1997, some of the pastors of the Central Coast Collegium began a grassroots effort to start a new church in this area, and one that would reach the Hispanic community. When Patricia Muran (at the time a member of Saint John's Lutheran Church) announced that she would be entering PLTS to ultimately serve as an ordained minister to the Spanish speaking people, the mission church idea took hold. Patricia was settled here and was glad to stay and serve. So while she tended to her seminary studies, the core group of pastors strategized how to find mission support and to rally the conference churches to advocate for a new church. With much prayer, they contacted and secured financial backing from 1) local ELCA churches 2) Southwest California Synod 3) ELCA churchwide office.*

*In 2001, when Patricia graduated from seminary, she was ordained and called as a mission developer in Santa Maria, CA. Her church served a very marginalized community of mostly Mexican immigrants that have minimal education, speak Spanish and an native Mayan language, and have an indigenous culture. Many work in agriculture. The grace of Christ touched their hearts and lives and continues to do so after Patricia retired in 2016.*

*Pastor Esteban Salazar was called to IL Santa Cruz after an interim period and currently serves there with his wife Angie. We are hoping to reinvigorate our conference around this work as we keep the promise we made to them at their founding. This effort has always been rooted in the dreams and vision of the churches on the Central Coast and was not instigated by the Synod. Rather, they heard our request and responded. With pastoral departures from our region, congregational separations after 2009, and the need to respond to the Covid crisis, we are called upon again to partner with IL Santa Cruz and support them with time, talent, and treasure as they live into their development.*

*Last year, IL Santa Cruz presided at over 50 baptisms and 22 confirmations, by far the healthiest of all our churches. God is doing something in Santa Maria. And it is our honor to be invited to be part of it.*

Benefiting Iglesia Santa Cruz



### Suggested items include:

- ❖ Maseca
- ❖ Cooking Oil
- ❖ Sugar
- ❖ Rice
- ❖ Beans
- ❖ Flour
- ❖ Salt
- ❖ Laundry & Dish Soap
- ❖ Diapers / Baby Wipes
- ❖ \$25 Visa Gift Cards

## **DRIVE-THRU DONATIONS BENEFITING IGLESIA SANTA CRUZ**

AT MT. CARMEL



## **Angel Tree Project – 2020**



Thank you for your amazing response the children of Iglesia Santa Cruz. Mt. Carmel provided gifts for 40 children, plus a few additional gifts 'just in case' they were needed. As it happens, those gifts were received by children who were not part of the initial gift tags. Santa decided not to bring his reindeer this year, but instead arrived in a motor home. Visit the facebook page of Iglesia Santa Cruz to see a few pictures. You may even recognize some of the faces.

<https://www.facebook.com/Iglesiahispanasantacruz>





# Mt. Carmel

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 Fredericks St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Phone: 805-544-2133  
Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org)

## OUR MISSION

*Celebrating God's grace through  
worship, learning and service.*

## CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

For updates from  
Mt. Carmel, go to  
[www.facebook.com/  
mtcarmelslo](http://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelslo)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Southwest California Synod/Mt. Carmel  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.